

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 07668 090758Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 PRS-01 /058 W

----- 022683

R 081619Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 420

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO L

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7668

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: ASAD PREPARES FUTURE SYRIAN STRATEGY

1. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST INFORMED EMBOFF NOV. 7 THAT PRES. ASAD HAD SPENT PREVIOUS TEN DAYS AT HIS SUMMER HOME IN BLUDAN (NEAR DAMASCUS WITH HIS ADVISORS LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE SYRIAN STRATEGY IN NUMBER OF FIELDS. SOURCE HAD NO SPECIFIC DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS AT BLUDAN, BUT SPECULATED DISPATCH OF MAJ. GEN. NAJI JAMIL TO CAIRO NOV 5 CONNECTED TO INTERNAL SARG DEBATE ON FUTURE POLICY OPTIONS.

2. ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY SOURCE'S REPORT, EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED PRESS FOLLOWING PRES. ASAD'S RETURN TO DAMASCUS FROM CAIRO SUMMIT OCT. 27. WE FOUND THAT BETWEEN OCT. 27 AND NOV. 6 PRESS REPORTED NO MEETINGS BETWEEN PRES. ASAD AND VISITING DIGNITARIES. FIRST POST-SUMMIT MEETING PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED WHEN ASAD RECEIVED FORMER LEBANESE PRIMINS YAFI AND TAQI AL-DIN SOLH NOV. 6.

3. COMMENT: SOURCE'S REMARK ABOUT MEETING IS LENT SUPPORT BY ABSENCE OF PRES. ASAD FROM PUBLIC VIEW DURING OCT. 26-NOV 6 PERIOD. SOURCE ALSO IN POSITION TO OBTAIN THIS KIND OF GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION. PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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